

HIGH WINDS HIGH TIDES

Duxbury had one of the highest tides in years Saturday. Ducks and geese swam right up to Robert Mullowney's back door on Harrison St. (on the marsh) and three feet of water had to be pumped out of the

cellar. Duxbury firemen took Mr. and Mrs. Lanier, their two children and two dogs out of their flooded home on Kentucky Rd., in the Plymouth Ave. area near Gurnet Rd. known as "The Horseshoe." Here water rose above the first floor of 11 homes and about ten cars were completely submerged.

The seals in Blue Fish River had a ball. Residents on the bridge saw three of the seals trying to snatch an eel from one another.

The Loren Nass house was an island, and the flood kept traffic from flowing on King Caesar Rd. Ted Brodie was seen in a rowboat headed for the sparsoak on Powder Point Rd.

There was a near tragedy on Duxbury Beach about 90 minutes after full of tide. Mrs. Hugo (Joan) Francke was standing just inside the cut on the ocean side of the fence with three of her children: Wendy, aged two, and her five-year-old twins, Lucy and Eric. Near them were Mr. and Mrs. William Brown and their nine-year-old daughter Amy. Mr. ("Jim") Brown was talking to Walter Prince when a small wave swept by their ankles. Suddenly what seemed like a small tidal wave came out of nowhere and swept most of the group into the parking area. Young Barbara Starr grabbed Lucy, while Jim Brown, who was knocked down to a sitting position with water up to his neck, pulled his daughter Amy to safety as Mrs. (Margaret) Brown held onto the fence -- in the process losing her glasses. The adults saved the children.

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from being dragged into the surging swells by a powerful undertow as the tide receded. Then everyone rushed home and took a hot shower.

In the wake of the howling nor'easter, Walter Prince found a frozen dead seal on the beach near High Pines and saw scores of huge wooden spools bobbing about in the heavy surf. The telephone company recently donated a couple hundred spools which will hopefully be used as barriers against beach erosion.

Walter Prince also encountered some frustrated seagulls who were trying to bite their way into a tautog a foot long. He has the fish in his freezer, but his wife Joyce says she won't cook it.

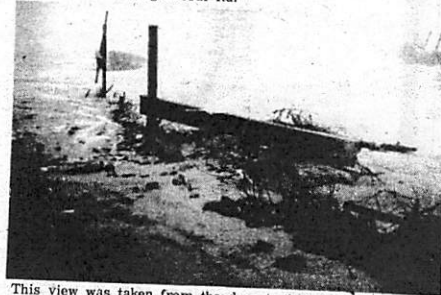
Saturday afternoon Walter hauled out one marooned beach buggy (after the height of the storm) and next day rescued half a dozen more. Then he moved away from the telephone. Duxbury has had much worse weather, but the combination of high tides (ten to 11 feet) and wind gusts made conditions unusually spectacular.

Just before noon we drove to South Weymouth. It was clear sailing through a sheet of rain on the expressway, but after crossing the snow line beyond Hingham, there was snow, with low visibility and skiddy pavements.

Photos by Walter Prince



Watching cars ford Powder Point Ave. looking west from the intersection at King Caesar Rd.



This view was taken from the dune to the left of the cut onto Big Beach from the parking lot at right. The ocean waves came directly across and flooded the parking lot.



At high tide King Caesar Rd. became a river flowing into the sparsoak next to Bay Pond Rd.



Standing in front of the Loren Nass home and looking north on Washington St. The Cable house is at left.